

Wisconsin State Forests Monitoring the Implementation of State Forest Master Plans

Property: Peshtigo River State Forest

Master Plan Year: 2007 – Plan was approved September 26, 2007.

Land Management Areas

Forest Production Management Area 1, Peshtigo River Flowages

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES

Long Term Management Objectives (100 Years)

- Maintain a diversity of forest cover types and ages for overall health of the forest, aesthetic appeal, and to provide wildlife habitat.
- Protect and maintain the water quality and riparian habitat of the Peshtigo River and flowages.
- Continue to increase the abundance of white pine and larger, older trees in mixed stands.
- Maintain red pine and jack pine composition.
- Maintain the acreage of red oak and aspen.
- Maintain scrub oak and red maple except in areas suitable for conversion to white pine.
- Maintain the river corridor and flowages in an aesthetically pleasing condition.

Short Term Management Objectives (50 Years)

- Enhance the diversity of forest cover types and age classes for overall health of the forest, aesthetic appeal, and to provide wildlife habitat.
- Protect and enhance the water quality and riparian habitat of the Peshtigo River and flowages.
- Maintain the current red oak acreage.
- Decrease scrub oak and increase the acreage and presence of white pine, aspen, red maple, red pine, or jack pine.
- Increase the presence and age of red and white pine on suitable sites across the area. Specifically, increase the acreage of stands that are dominated by pine and, in mixed stands where red and white pine are not the dominate species, increase the average pine component.
- In the Shoreland Management Overlay Zone, allow the natural conversion of aspen to white pine and red maple. Outside of the Shoreland Management Area maintain aspen approximately at current levels.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the river corridor and flowages in an aesthetically pleasing condition.
Resource Management Prescriptions	<p>The General Forest Management Prescriptions by Primary Forest Type apply and all management activities are authorized, except as noted below for this management area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimize the visual impact of management along the river corridor and flowages using aesthetic management techniques for timber harvests such as restricting the size of cuts, conducting partial harvests, retaining large longer lived tree species, planting trees, managing for longer lived species, and harvesting during the winter. • On suitable sites, allow scrub oak to naturally convert to white pine, aspen, or red maple. Where natural conversion is not viable or where conversion to red pine or jack pine is desired, use planting and other active management techniques. • Where feasible, use natural conversion to increase the presence of white pine across the management area. In mixed stands, promote the growth and retention of large white pine trees. • Retain snags and coarse woody habitat whenever their retention does not conflict with other forest management objectives, including riparian areas.
Accomplishments 2012	<p><i>In 2012, <u>The Pipeline Timber Sale</u> was partially harvested. On this sale, 46 acres of red pine plantations are being thinned and 91 acres of mixed aspen, oak, and jack pine will be clearcut. Harvesting will continue in 2013, and the master plan objectives will be met after the harvest is finished.</i></p> <p><i>In 2012 <u>Boat Landing 12 Timber Sale</u> – was partially harvested. On this sale, 163 acres of aspen will be clearcut, 8 acres of planted red pine will be thinned, and 11 acres of red oak will be clearcut to regenerate the oak. In fall 2012, 5 of the 11 acres of red oak was scarified with anchor chains in order to prepare a mineral soil seed bed for natural regeneration of oak. Good quality red oak sites are limited on the forest so this practice helps address the master plan objective of maintaining the oak acreage. Harvesting will continue in 2013, and the master plan objectives will be met after the harvest is finished.</i></p> <p><i>In 2012, <u>Eagle Road Timber Sale</u> was sold with a two year contract during which time harvesting will take place. On this sale, 28 acres of red pine plantations and 5 acres of mixed oak and pine will be thinned with under stocked portions of the plantations receiving a coppice harvest in order to regenerate oak. Thinning the plantations will promote faster diameter growth in the red pines.</i></p> <p><i>In 2012, <u>The Boat Landing 10 Timber Sale</u> was established. On this sale, 44 acres of red pine plantations and 5 acres of mixed pine and spruce are being thinned, and 66 acres of mixed aspen, oak, and jack pine will be clearcut. Scattered trees and groups of trees are being retained throughout the sale area and along trails. The sale will be sold in early 2013 under a two year contract for harvesting to take place. The master plan objectives will be met after the harvest is finished.</i></p>

	<p><i>In 2012, <u>The Boat Landing 3 Timber Sale</u> was established. On this sale, 35 acres of red pine plantations and 3 acres of mixed pine and oak are being thinned, and 120 acres of mixed aspen, oak, and jack pine will be clearcut. Scattered trees and groups of trees are being retained throughout the sale area and along trails. The sale will be sold in early 2013 under a two year contract for harvesting to take place. The master plan objectives will be met after the harvest is finished.</i></p>
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Forest Production Management Area 2, Fly Fishing Area

<h3>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</h3>	<p>Long term management objectives (100 Years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the high scenic qualities of the Peshtigo River and flowages. • Protect the water quality and riparian habitat of the Peshtigo River and flowages. • Maintain a diversity of forest cover types and age classes for overall health of the forest, aesthetic appeal, and to provide wildlife habitat. • Continue to increase the presence of large, longer-lived trees such as white pine on suitable sites. • Maintain scrub oak and red maple for habitat diversity. • Maintain red oak, aspen, jack pine, and red pine acreages. <p>Short term objectives (50 Years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and enhance the scenic qualities of the Peshtigo River and flowages. • Enhance the diversity of forest cover types and age classes for overall health of the forest, aesthetic appeal, and to provide wildlife habitat. • Protect and enhance the water quality and riparian habitat of the Peshtigo River and flowages. • Decrease the acreage of scrub oak but maintain a component for habitat diversity. • Increase the presence of longer lived trees such as red and white pine. • Increase the total acreage of jack pine and red maple. • Maintain current levels of red oak and aspen.
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<p>Resource Management Prescriptions</p>	<p>The General Forest Management Prescriptions by Primary Forest Type apply and all management activities are authorized, except as noted below for this management area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When conducting forest management activities, modify the standard management prescriptions to minimize as practicable, the visibility of activities from the river. Specific aesthetic management techniques that may be used are: restricting the size of cuts, conducting partial harvests, retaining single trees or groups of trees, creating irregular or feathered harvest boundaries, controlling logging slash, planting trees, managing for longer lived species, and harvesting during the winter. • Manage for longer-lived trees such as red and white pine across the management area on suitable sites. • Where feasible, allow scrub oak to naturally convert to white pine, aspen, or red maple. Where natural conversion is not viable or where conversion to red pine or jack pine is desired, use planting and other active management techniques. • On areas that are too steep for forest management use passive management, except for the control of invasive species. Determine steep slopes on a stand by stand basis whenever forest management activities are proposed. • Retain snags and coarse woody habitat across the area and downed trees in the river.
<p>Accomplishments 2012</p>	<p><i>In 2012, <u>The Seymour Rapids Timber Sale</u> was completed. On this sale, a total of 79 acres of scrub oak and red maple have been clearcut.</i></p> <p><i>In 2012, <u>The Spring Rapids Timber Sale</u> was completed. On this sale, 23 acres of planted red pine was thinned and 145 acres of scrub oak, red maple, and aspen was clearcut.</i></p> <p><i>In 2012, <u>The Medicine Brook Timber Sale</u> was harvested. On this sale 73 acres of mixed aspen and scrub oak was clearcut.</i></p> <p><i>In 2012, <u>The Johnson Falls Timber Sale</u> was completed. On this sale, 102 acres of planted red pine was thinned and 140 acres of mixed scrub oak/aspen forest was clearcut.</i></p> <p><i>The master plan objectives, which were met by the above mentioned harvests, are as follows:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Maintain and enhance the scenic qualities of the Peshtigo River and flowages. This objective was met by not harvesting any areas within 200 feet of the river or any hillsides that are visible from the river.</i> • <i>Enhance the diversity of forest cover types and age classes for overall health of the forest, aesthetic appeal, and to provide wildlife habitat. This objective was met by clearcutting the aspen/oak/maple areas which will have the effect of creating a new age class of these species which will be healthier than the old trees which were there. Also, the harvest will increase the aspen component, while decreasing the oak component. Aspen is a valuable wildlife species that can only be perpetuated by this type of harvest (clearcutting).</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Protect and enhance the water quality and riparian habitat of the Peshtigo River and flowages. This objective was met by not cutting within 200 feet of the river.</i> • <i>Decrease the acreage of scrub oak but maintain a component for habitat diversity. This objective was met by clearcutting the aspen/oak/maple areas which has the effect of increasing the aspen component while decreasing the scrub oak. There will still be sufficient oak to provide wildlife benefits.</i> • <i>Increase the total acreage of red maple. This objective was met by clearcutting the aspen/oak/maple areas which benefits the maple saplings established in the understory.</i> <p><i>In 2012, <u>The Bizjak Lane Timber Sale</u> was sold and partially harvested. Only 7 acres of planted red pine was cut in 2012. The remaining 152 acres of scrub oak, aspen, and red maple will be clearcut in 2013. Roads and landings have been built. The master plan objectives, which will be met, will be reported after the harvest is complete.</i></p>
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Forest Production Management Area 3, Potato Rapids Flowage

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Long Term Management Objectives (100 Years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the scenic qualities of the Peshtigo River and flowage. • Protect and maintain the water quality and riparian habitat of the Peshtigo River and flowage. • Maintain diversity of forest cover types and age classes for overall health of the forest, aesthetic appeal, and to provide wildlife habitat. • Continue to increase the level of white pine and maintain the abundance of red pine. Promote larger diameter trees for both species. • Maintain scrub oak, aspen, and red maple. <p>Short Term Management Objectives (50 Years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and enhance the scenic qualities of the Peshtigo River and flowage. • Protect and enhance the water quality and riparian habitat of the Peshtigo River and flowages. • Reduce the acreage of aspen and scrub oak and increase the presence of white pine, red maple, and other species and maintain the current acreage of red pine.
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Resource Management Prescriptions	<p>The General Forest Management Prescriptions by Primary Forest Type apply and all management activities are authorized, except as noted below for this management area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow the natural conversion of aspen and scrub oak to white pine, red maple, and other species within the Shoreland Management Overlay Zone. • Use natural conversion to increase the presence of red maple and white pine in mixed stands across the management area. Actively convert some deciduous forest types to white pine on appropriate sites. Manage white pine towards larger diameter older trees. • Retain snags and coarse woody habitat whenever their retention does not conflict with other forest management objectives, including riparian areas. • Minimize the visual impact of timber harvests using aesthetic management techniques such as restricting the size of cuts, conducting partial harvests, retaining single trees or groups of trees, creating irregular or feathered harvest boundaries, controlling logging slash, planting trees, managing for longer lived species, and harvesting during the winter.
Accomplishments 2012	<i>No accomplishments to report for 2012.</i>

Native Community Management Area 4, Lake Lackawanna and Cedars

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	<p>Short and Long Term Management Objectives (50 & 100 Years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect the hydrology and water quality of Lake Lackawanna and associated streams. • Maintain a diverse mosaic of native community types. • Develop and maintain the uplands in older closed canopy forest that: 1) have large diameter trees, 2) are structurally diverse, 3) have a mixed species composition with an increased dominance by longer lived species such as white pine, and 4) contain old growth characteristics such as the development of abundant coarse woody debris and standing dead snags. • Convert red pine plantations to a diverse forest that includes white pine as a major associate. • Maintain the existing native wetland community types such as Sedge Meadow and Alder Thicket. The forested wetlands will be dominated by Northern wet-mesic Forest (Northern White Cedar swamp), but are expected to have inclusions of other types such as Tamarack Swamp and Northern Hardwood Swamp.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance rare species habitats (two rare plants at the time of this writing) and high quality natural communities. • Provide opportunities for scientific research. • Provide recreation opportunities that generally focus on activities such as hiking, bird-watching, photography, and nature study.
Resource Management Prescriptions	<p>The General Forest Management Prescriptions by Primary Forest Type apply and all of their associated management activities apply, except as limited by the prescriptions below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the hydrology, aesthetic values, and water quality of the lake, wetlands, and associated streams by using Best Management Practices (BMPs). • Actively manage the uplands to favor increased dominance by longer-lived trees such as white pine, primarily through thinning and natural conversion, while maintaining and enhancing forest structure and tree species diversity. Coordinate with the Sate Natural Areas program to plan active management techniques and strategies. • Retain numerous standing dead snags and coarse woody habitat in both upland and riparian areas. • Use monitoring information on changes in composition and structure to aid in future management decisions. • Actively manage red pine plantations primarily through thinning and natural regeneration techniques to create stands with a natural appearance and large diameter trees grown to biological maturity. • Passively manage all of the wetland communities, including the forested lowlands. • Actively control beaver populations and mitigate the impacts of beaver damage if they threaten to negatively affect the cedar swamp(s) for the purpose of protecting rare species habitats and maintaining high-quality natural communities. • Salvage generally will not occur in passive areas unless necessary to meet statutory responsibilities for fire protection or pest control. In actively managed areas, salvage of trees damaged by wind, ice fire, and insects, may occur after consultation with managers from affected DNR programs to determine how salvage can be done to help meet the objectives of the area. • Control of invasive plants may also occur in passively managed areas.
Accomplishments 2012	<i>No accomplishments to report for 2012.</i>

Native Community Management Area 5, Caldron Falls

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</i></p>	<p>Short and Long Term Management Objectives (50 & 100 Years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and maintain an older, closed canopy forest of longer lived species such as white pine on the uplands and both white pine and back spruce on the lowlands • Enhance forest structural diversity, tree species diversity, and development of old growth characteristics such as the presence of coarse woody debris and standing dead snags on the uplands. • Convert red pine plantations to a diverse forest that includes white pine as a major associate. • Protect and maintain Black Spruce Swamps and Ephemeral Ponds in a natural, unmanaged condition, except for invasive species control. • Protect, maintain and enhance the water quality, riparian habitat, and scenic qualities of the Caldron Falls Flowage. • Provide opportunities for scientific research. • Provide recreation opportunities that generally focus on activities such as hiking, bird-watching, photography, and nature study.
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Resource Management Prescriptions</i></p>	<p>The General Forest Management Prescriptions by Primary Forest Type apply and all of their associated management activities apply, except as limited by the prescriptions below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use thinning and other harvest techniques to release and favor white pine, where possible. Maintain a component of scrub oak for diversity and wildlife benefits. • Actively manage red pine plantations primarily through thinning and natural regeneration techniques to create stand with a natural appearance, large diameter trees grown to biological maturity, an increased dominance by longer-lived species such as white pine. • Retain standing dead snags and coarse woody habitat whenever their retention does not conflict with other forest management objectives, including riparian areas. • Refer to the DNR Old-Growth Handbook to guide management decisions, particularly information related to “Managed Old-growth” forests. Use monitoring information on changes in composition and structure to aid in future management decisions. • Passively manage the Black Spruce Swamps, Ephemeral Pond(s), and immediately surrounding areas. • Salvage generally will not occur in passive areas unless necessary to meet statutory responsibilities for fire protections or pest control. In actively managed areas, salvage of trees damaged by wind, ice, fire, and insects, may occur after consultation with managers from affected DNR programs to determine how salvage can be done to help meet the objectives of the area. • Maintain the Caldron Falls Flowage in a natural appearing condition (see Shoreland Management Overlay Zone Prescriptions).

**Accomplishments
2012**

No accomplishments to report for 2012.

Native Community Management Area 6, High Falls North

**MASTER PLAN
OBJECTIVES**

Short and Long Term Management Objectives (50 & 100 Years)

- Protect and enhance the Bedrock Glades and all other rare species habitats and high-quality natural communities that are present.
- Enhance forest structural diversity and mixed species composition, increase the dominance of longer-lived trees, particularly white pine, and develop of old growth characteristics such as the presence of large diameter trees, coarse woody debris, and standing dead snags.
- Red maple should increase and aspen and oak will decrease, but a component of each should be maintained in the overstory where possible to contribute to diversity.
- Increase the dominance of longer-lived trees, particularly white pine.
- Provide opportunities for scientific research.
- Provide recreation opportunities that generally focus on activities such as hiking, bird-watching, photography, and nature study.

**Resource Management
Prescriptions**

The General Forest Management Prescriptions by Primary Forest Type apply and all of their associated management activities apply, except as limited by the prescriptions below.

- Maintain portions of the glades in a mostly open condition, where possible, with scattered large trees to favor light-demanding and intermediate glade and dry-forest/wood-land associated plants.
- Decrease the amount of aspen and scrub oak and increase white pine primarily through thinning and natural conversion and promote the growth and retention of red maple and large white pine trees. Use techniques such as partial cutting, thinning, and group selection when necessary.
- Retain snags and coarse woody habitat whenever their retention does not conflict with other forest management activities or present hazards.
- Prescribed fire could be a potentially useful management tool for improving understory species diversity and enhancing the native communities.
- Refer to the DNR Old-Growth Handbook to guide management decisions, particularly information related to "Managed Old-growth" forests. Use monitoring information on changes in composition and structure to aid in future management decisions.
- Minimize the visual impact of forest management activities in areas near Old Veterans Lake Campground.
- Salvage of trees damaged by wind, ice, fire, and insects, may occur after consultation with managers from affected DNR programs to determine how salvage can be done to help meet the

	objectives of the area.
Accomplishments 2012	<i>No accomplishments to report for 2012.</i>

Native Community Management Area 7, Johnson Falls

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	<p>Short and Long Term Management objectives (50 & 100 Years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and maintain a diverse mosaic of high-quality native communities, including forested areas with old-growth attributes, Bedrock Glades, Forested Seeps, and springs in a natural, unmanaged state. • Allow cover types to convert naturally to favor longer-lived species. • Protect rare species habitats. • Protect, maintain, and enhance the water quality, riparian habitat, and scenic qualities of a stretch of the Peshtigo River. • Convert red pine plantations to a diverse forest that includes white pine as a major associate. • Provide opportunities for scientific research. • Provide recreation opportunities that focus generally on activities such as hiking, bird-watching, photography, and nature study.
Resource Management Prescriptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passively manage all areas that are not red pine plantations to allow for the development of white pine and other long-lived species, as well as increased coarse woody debris, standing snags, and tree age diversity. • Actively manage red pine plantations primarily through thinning and natural regeneration techniques to create stands with a natural appearance and large diameter trees grown to biological maturity. Retain snags and coarse woody habitat whenever their retention does not conflict with other forest management activities or present hazards. • Salvage generally will not occur in passive areas unless necessary to meet statutory responsibilities for fire protection or pest control. In actively managed areas, salvage of trees damaged by wind, ice, fire, and insects, may occur after consultation with managers from affected DNR programs to determine how salvage can be done to help meet the objectives of the area. • Control of invasive plants may occur throughout the management area.

**Accomplishments
2012**

No accomplishments to report for 2012.

Native Community Management Area 8, Kirby Lake Hardwoods

**MASTER PLAN
OBJECTIVES**

Short Term and Long Term Management Objectives (50 & 100 Years)

- Develop and maintain a forested natural community mosaic that includes a variety of forest types and old growth characteristics including enhanced forest structural diversity, a mixed species composition, and development of coarse woody debris and standing dead snags. The maple and white pine components are expected to increase, whereas the red oak and aspen will be reduced, but not eliminated from the site.
- Provide opportunities to compare active versus passive management techniques with regard to their effects on forest structure, composition, and other attributes within this management area.
- Protect and maintain examples of rich Northern Mesic Forest, a community type that is rare throughout this landscape.
- Protect and maintain the unique hydrology of the site, including the many seeps and springs.
- Protect native communities and other rare species habitats and high-quality examples of natural communities in a natural, unmanaged state.
- Provide opportunities for scientific research.
- Provide recreation opportunities that generally focus on activities such as hiking, bird-watching, photography, and nature study.

**Resource Management
Prescriptions**

The General Management Prescriptions by Primary forest Type apply and all of their associated management activities apply, except as limited by the prescriptions below:

- Use single tree selection or group harvest to promote tree species diversity and hasten development of larger diameter trees for the portion of the native community which is outside of the State Natural Area.
- Passively manage the State Natural Area to prevent soil disturbance and allow natural conversion to a forest with old growth characteristics. Passive management will also apply to the portion of the State Natural Area within the Shoreland Management Overlay Zone.
- Manage the river corridor outside of the State Natural Area using the prescriptions described in "Shoreland Management Overlay Zone" section of the plan.
- Salvage generally will not occur in passive areas unless necessary to meet statutory responsibilities for fire protection or pest control. In actively managed areas, salvage of trees damaged by wind, ice, fire, and insects, may occur after consultation with managers from affected DNR programs to determine how salvage can be done to help meet the objectives of the area.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Control of invasive plants may occur throughout the management area.
Accomplishments 2012	<i>No accomplishments to report for 2012.</i>

Overlay Zone

Shoreland Management Overlay Zone

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	<p>Short and Long Term Objectives (50 & 100 Years)</p> <p>Maintain and enhance the highly scenic, natural appearing shoreline of the Peshtigo River and flowages.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and enhance soils, water quality, and riparian habitats. Provide public access to the river and flowages as established by the FERC license agreement.
Management Prescriptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage to favor large, longer-lived trees such as white pine and red maple on suitable sites. If desirable, under-plant pine or other native species to increase stocking levels or for restoration following a disturbance. Thin red pine plantations to create a natural appearance and large diameter trees. Over the long term, convert plantations to a diverse forest with white pine as a major associate. Harvest dead, diseased and dying trees in order to attain a healthier forest, but retain abundant snags and dead-downed trees, including downed trees in the water. Remove and/or control invasive species, and control the spread and impact of disease and insect damage. When doing so, use the most practicable methods with the least negative visual impact on the area. Outside of designated public use areas, modify the standard management practices to minimize, to the degree practicable, the visibility of management activities from the water. Maintain and enhance or develop recreational facilities related to use and enjoyment of the flowages and river, such as boat access sites, swimming areas, fishing pears, hiking and portage trails, and primitive campsites, as prescribed in the recreation section of this plan. Trees and shrubs may be removed as needed for the development or redevelopment of designated public use areas or sites. Planting and maintenance of native trees, shrubs and turf may be done on these sites for screening, scenic enhancement, or to enhance recreational use of the site.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removal of hazardous trees from designated public use sites is authorized.
Accomplishments 2012	<i>The master plan objective of providing public access to the river and flowages was accomplished by properly maintaining all boat landings throughout the boating season, and maintaining all canoe campsites, canoe portage trails, and cross country ski/hiking trails which occur in the Shoreland Management Zone. In addition to providing public access to the waters, the scenic, natural appearing shoreline was protected along with the soils, water quality, and riparian habitats. All master plan objectives were met.</i>

Wildlife Management

MASTER PLAN DESCRIPTION	<p>Diverse and healthy wildlife populations will be maintained by managing the composition and structure of forest habitats integrated with the management objectives and activities outlined for each land management area in the Land Management Section of this plan.</p> <p>Wildlife habitat values are further assured by the wildlife biologists working with foresters on timber sales in order to maximize tree species diversity and improve vegetative structure consistent with the management objectives for the area.</p> <p>This wildlife management plan has been integrated into the management prescriptions for the individual management areas.</p>
Management Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wildlife biologists review all timber sales and provide recommendations to maintain and improve wildlife habitat. Long-lived trees such as red oak, white pine, and red pine will be maintained in clearcuts to provide for species and stand composition diversity. Small clumps of aspen-birch may be reserved in clearcuts for ruffed grouse budding and cavity trees. Large, full-crowned trees with dens and cavities as well as dead trees (snags) will be maintained on appropriate sites. All non-forested wetlands, including Northern Sedge Meadows, Shrub-carr, Boreal Rich Fen, and Open Bogs will be protected. Ephemeral Ponds and permanent small ponds will be protected. Individuals of all endangered, threatened, and special concern wildlife species will be protected. The Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) will be checked prior to all timber sales, ground- breaking projects, and recreational and trail development.

<p>Accomplishments 2012</p>	<p><i>In 2012, the wildlife biologist had input on all timber sales which were established. For those timber sales which were <u>completed</u> in 2012, a total of 125 acres of planted red pine was thinned and a total of 467 acres of scrub oak, jack pine, and aspen was clearcut. Some of the specific wildlife management accomplishments associated with these acres are:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Larger white oaks were retained for mast production in clearcuts</i> • <i>Scattered large scrub oaks were retained in clearcuts to serve as mast producers, snags, den trees, and coarse woody debris.</i> • <i>Oak trees within pine plantations were generally retained for mast production, snags, den trees and coarse woody debris.</i> • <i>Naturally occurring white and red pines were retained in clearcuts for species diversity, future snags, den trees, and coarse woody debris;</i> • <i>All types of wetlands, creeks and ponds, which are valuable for wildlife, were protected by “no cut” zones.</i>
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Fisheries Management

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Cool Water Lakes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a quality harvest as well as trophy opportunities. • Regularly assess the health of these waters and their fisheries. <p>Warm Water Lakes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a quality harvest. • Provide catch and release fishing opportunities. • Regularly assess the health of these waters and their fishery. <p>Cold Water Streams</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and enhance a self-sustaining trout fishery. Improve the food supply, provide cover, and improve spawning substrates. • Provide a quality harvest as well as trophy opportunities. • Regularly assess the health of these waters and their fishery. <p>Warm Water Streams</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Periodically assess the health of these waters and their fishery.
<p>Management Activities</p>	<p>Cool Water Lakes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to conduct creel, electrofishing, and netting surveys to statewide monitoring guidelines. Make the results available to the public. • Set fishing regulations to provide a quality harvest as well as trophy opportunities. Evaluate the regulations to ensure the desired response is occurring in the fishery • .Stock muskellunge, walleye and trout species on suitable waters that have recruitment problems. <p>Warm Water Lakes</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to conduct creel, electrofishing, and netting surveys to statewide monitoring guidelines. Make the results available to the public. • Set fishing regulations to provide a quality harvest as well as trophy opportunities. Evaluate the regulations to ensure the desired response is occurring in the fishery. <p>Cold Water Streams</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to conduct creel, electro fishing, and netting surveys to statewide monitoring guidelines. Make the results available to the public. • Continue stocking the Peshtigo River fly fish area (five mile stretch below Johnson Falls Dam site) with trout species. • Maintain existing trout habitat structures, and perform new traditional in-stream trout habitat improvements as staff and money allow. • Maintain the special regulation category 5 trout waters between Johnson Falls and Sandstone Flowage. • Set fishing regulations to provide a quality harvest as well as trophy opportunities. Evaluate the regulations to ensure the desired response is occurring in the fishery. • Conduct beaver control as necessary (limit dams that slow water flow and increase water temperatures). <p>Warm Water Streams</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to conduct creel, electro fishing, and netting surveys to statewide monitoring guidelines. Make the results available to the public.
<p>Accomplishments 2012</p>	<p><i>Some of the fisheries master plan objectives were attained by <u>informing</u> the public of the fishing regulations and by <u>enforcing</u> the regulations. Fishing regulations, along with special walleye and musky regulations were posted at boat landings. Special regulations were posted in the Fly Fishing Area. Law enforcement personnel did patrol to enforce fishing regulations.</i></p> <p><i>Other than education and enforcement, the following fish stocking did occur: 1,000 Muskellunge into Caldron Falls, 3,347 Walleye into High Falls, 2,749 Walleye into Sandstone, 8,117 Walleye into Bagley Flowage, 783 Brook Trout into the Fly Fishing Area, and 3,365 Rainbow Trout into the Fly Fishing Area. Additionally, following the drawdown and subsequent refilling of the Peshtigo Flowage, the following fish stocking occurred in 2012: 150 seven inch Walleye, 572 nine inch Northern Pike, 4,000 Bluegill and 8,000 three inch Largemouth Bass.</i></p> <p><i>DNR Fisheries crews constructed a Walleye spawning reef in the Peshtigo Flowage and stabilized the banks of two islands with 300 tons of glacial stone. Financial contributors to this project included Walleyes for Tomorrow, Wisconsin Public Service and the Porterfield Sportsman's Club.</i></p> <p><i>The following master plan objectives were met:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Provide a quality harvest with trophy opportunities</i> • <i>Provide catch and release opportunities.</i>

Recreation Management

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVE	Provide a range of camping opportunities by maintaining and upgrading existing camping facilities and by establishing new or enhanced facilities including primitive canoe camping, primitive water camping, rustic family camping, indoor group camping, and equestrian camping.
Management Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add 15 non-electric campsites at Old Veteran's Lake. • Develop one indoor group camp for Seymour Rapid's area. • Renovate remote, non-electric primitive canoe campsites. • Build 9 new non-electric primitive water campsites on Caldron Falls, High Falls, and Johnson Falls. • Develop a non-electric equestrian campground west of High Falls Reservoir and east of Parkway Road.
Accomplishments 2012	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No progress has been made on the additional 15 non-electric campsites project at Old Veteran's Lake. 2. A project has been written to fund the indoor group camp, but this project has not been funded yet. 3. The Johnson Falls Canoe Campsites were renovated in 2012. The sites were relocated downstream to a more pleasing location, and the existing sites were subsequently closed. Minor work will be done in 2013 to finish these sites. 4. 1 new non-electric primitive water campsite was established on Johnson Falls. As well, some minor work will be done in 2013 to complete this site. Projects have been written to fund the other 8 non-electric primitive water sites, but these projects have not been funded yet. 5. In 2012, regular maintenance continued at Old Veteran's Lake Campground and all canoe campsites. This involves mowing as needed, litter pick up, cleaning bathrooms, cleaning the fire rings, etc.

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVE	Provide areas for day uses such as picnicking, boating, swimming as well as passive recreational activities by maintaining and upgrading existing facilities and by establishing two new day use areas—one on High Falls Reservoir and one on Caldron Falls Reservoir.
Management Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop East Bay day use area on High Falls Flowage. • Develop Musky Point Day use area on Caldron Falls Flowage.
Accomplishments 2012	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No progress has been made on the East Bay Day Use Area. 2. The Musky Point Day Use Area project was mostly completed in 2012. This area was under construction for the majority of spring – fall 2012 and opened to the public in late 2012. Some items remain to be completed in spring 2013.

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVE	Provide access to the waters of the Peshtigo River and its reservoirs by maintaining and upgrading the existing boat landings and canoe access points.				
Management Activities	BOAT LANDING	PARKING CHANGE	FACILITIES**	LAUNCH APPROACH	DOCK
	Landing 1	Reconfigure existing lot	Vault Toilet, fishing pier	Paved Approach	Yes
	Landing 2	Reconfigure existing lot	N/A	No change	No
	Landing 3	Reconfigure existing lot, Add 30 spaces	Water, Vault toilets	Paved approach	Yes
	Landing 4	Reconfigure existing lot	N/A	Paved Approach	Yes
	Landing 5	Reconfigure existing lot; add 20 space lot	Vault toilet, water	Paved Approach	Yes
	Landing 6	No change to existing lot	N/A	Paved Approach	Yes
	Landing 7	Reconfigure existing lot; add new 20 space lot	Vault toilet, water, fishing pier	Paved Approach	Yes
	Landing 8	Reconfigure existing lot	Vault toilet, water	Renovate ramp, pave approach & launch	Yes
	***Landing 9	Reconfigure current parking to the west	Vault toilet, water, fishing pier	Reposition to the west and pave	Yes
	Landing 10	Reconfigure existing lot	N/A	Paved approach	Yes
	Landing 11	Reconfigure existing lot	Vault toilet, water	Renovate and pave approach & launch ramp	Yes
	Landing 12	No changes to existing lot	Vault toilet, changing rooms, water	Renovate and pave launch ramp	No
	Landing 14	Reconfigure existing lot	Fishing pier	Renovate and pave approach & launch ramp	Yes
	Peshtigo	Reconfigure existing lot	N/A	Renovate and pave approach & launch ramp	Yes
	Potato Rapids	Reconfigure existing lot; add 10 new spaces	Fishing pier	Renovate and pave approach & launch ramp	Yes
	Medicine Brook	Reconfigure existing lot	N/A	Add canoe slide	No
	Seymour Rapids	Reconfigure existing lot	N/A	Renovate existing canoe take out and put in	No
	Spring Rapids	Reconfigure existing lot; add 5 new spaces	N/A	Renovate existing canoe take out	No
	** N/A = none available *** Included as part of day use area				
Accomplishments 2012	<p>1. In 2012, all water access sites continued to receive annual maintenance and minor repairs as needed.</p> <p>2. A project was written to fund improvements to Boat Landing #1 on High Falls but this project has not been funded yet.</p> <p>3. A project was written to fund improvements to Boat Landing #5 but this project has not been funded yet.</p> <p>4. In 2012, the Musky Point boat landing was completely renovated as part of the Musky Point Day Use Area project. Minor work is needed to complete the project in 2013.</p>				

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVE	Provide a system of non-motorized recreational trails by maintaining, and in some cases enhancing, existing trails and by the establishment of new trails and trail segments
Management Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing hiking trails and portages. • Add new primitive hiking trails around Caldron Falls, High Falls and Potato Rapids Flowages. • Add a self guided, accessible interpretive trail at Old Veterans Lake Campground. • Provide up to 25 miles of designated equestrian trails and trailhead with vault toilet. • Adjust the Spring Rapids cross country ski trail to avoid creek crossing conflicts, and add up to 5 miles of trail to connect the Spring Rapids and Seymour Rapids ski trails. • Cross Country ski trailheads will be upgraded and added to both trail systems.
Accomplishments 2012	<p>1. In 2012, existing hiking trails and portages were maintained.</p> <p>2. No progress has been made to add primitive hiking trails around Caldron Falls, High Falls, and Potato Rapids Flowage.</p> <p>3. A project has been written to fund an interpretive trail at Old Veteran's Lake Campground but this project has not received funding yet.</p> <p>4. A project has been written to provide equestrian trails and trailhead but this project has not received funding yet.</p> <p>5. A project has been written to avoid creek crossing conflicts at the Spring Rapids Trail System and to add a connecting trail between Spring Rapids and Seymour Rapids but this project has not been funded yet.</p> <p>6. Projects have been written to upgrade the Seymour and Spring Rapids Trailheads but these projects have not been funded yet.</p>

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVE	Maintain designated motorized recreation trails, All-Terrain, and snowmobile trails at existing levels. Establish new connector routes and re-routes of existing trails as needed to more efficiently connect to regional trail networks.
Management Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-route a minor portion of the snowmobile trail system in the SE corner of the Fly Fishing Area. • Maintain the existing 20 miles of winter only ATV use on snowmobile trails designated for ATV use. • Maintain the existing 1 mile of spring, summer and fall ATV trail. • Cooperate with federal and local governments, private landowners and other interested parties in a public planning process to evaluate potential future ATV trail connector(s) that support a regional trail network.
Accomplishments 2012	<p>1. No progress to report on the re-route of the snowmobile trail in the SE corner of the Fly Fishing Area.</p> <p>2. In 2012, existing snowmobile and ATV trails were maintained by the clubs using funds designated for that purpose.</p> <p>3. In 2012, a minor re-route of the ATV trail occurred due to a safety concern that was brought forth by the local ATV club and local township. The ATV trail was rerouted off a town road onto state forest land.</p>

	4. <i>There were no further discussions on ATV trail connectors that support a regional trail network, although those discussions could resume at any time.</i>
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MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	Maintain and support traditional outdoor sporting activities such as hunting, trapping and fishing, and enhance existing boat landings, access points, and other facilities.
Accomplishments 2012	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Traditional outdoor sporting activities such as hunting, trapping, and fishing were maintained, enforced and supported, although no specific enhancements can be reported.</i> 2. <i>Enhancements to existing boat landings, access points, and other facilities are reported elsewhere in this report.</i>

Road Management

MASTER PLAN DESCRIPTION	The Department managed roadways within the Peshtigo River State Forest will be maintained in part according to requirements from the Best Management Practices for Water Quality:
Management Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regularly inspect active roads (especially after heavy rainfall). Clear debris from culverts, ditches, dips and other drainage structures to decrease clogging that can lead to washouts. • Keep traffic to a minimum during wet periods and spring breakup to reduce maintenance needs. • Shape road surfaces periodically to maintain proper surface drainage and remove berms on the edge of the road that trap water. • When dust control agents are used, apply them in a way that will keep them from entering lakes, streams and groundwater.
Accomplishments 2012	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Roads were inspected and maintained following BMP's for Water Quality.</i> 2. <i>Medicine Brook, Seymour Rapids and Spring Rapids road were closed during the spring breakup season of 2012 to protect them from damage.</i>

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	<p>All management activities on Class A, B, and C roads will follow the guidelines established in the Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Handbook (WDNR 1995).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aesthetic management considerations predominate along Class A roads. These areas should be developed and maintained in the forest environment to the greatest scenic potential for public enjoyment.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain scenic attractiveness in balance with other management objectives for adjacent lands. • The appropriate scenic management treatments for each Class B roadway will be determined by the Peshtigo River State Forest Superintendent on a case-by-case basis as management activities are scheduled. • The specific aesthetic management objective and the appropriate scenic management treatments for each Class C roadway will be determined by the Peshtigo River State Forest Superintendent on a case-by-case basis as management activities are scheduled.
<p>Accomplishments 2012</p>	<p><i>For those timber harvests which were completed in 2012, the Class B roads which were involved were Medicine Brook Road, Seymour Rapids Road, Spring Rapids Road, Kirby Lake Lane, and Johnson Falls Road. The aesthetic management practices for each road are as follows:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Medicine Brook Road—Single trees and groves of large white pines were retained. New scenic vistas were opened up that did not exist before.</i> <i>2. Seymour Rapids Road—Scattered large white oaks, red oaks, and red maple were retained. An exciting new view of the valley was opened up by the cutting.</i> <i>3. Spring Rapids Road and Kirby Lake Lane—The hilly terrain and no cut areas block the view of the cut from these roads, and the pine plantation which borders these roads was only thinned, so extra aesthetic considerations were not necessary.</i> <i>4. Johnson Falls Road—areas of red pine plantation helped break up the scrub oak clearcut. The cut created a new view of the river valley. The loggers did an exceptionally neat job which is aesthetically pleasing.</i>

Real Estate Management

Forest Boundary Expansion

MASTER PLAN DESCRIPTION	Expanding into the area immediately adjacent to the current boundary provides additional protection to lands flanking the Peshtigo River and the waterway itself. New public access points and regional trail linkages could be established.
Accomplishments 2012	<i>No new lands were acquired in this acquisition area; therefore no master plan objectives were met.</i>

MASTER PLAN DESCRIPTION	Acquiring land along the river corridor to the northwest of the current boundary completes the protection of more than 50 miles of the upper Peshtigo River corridor, as well as protects a unique and highly prized section of fast-moving water, Roaring Rapids. This creates a large continuous block of state, county and National Forest land along the river.
Accomplishments 2012	<i>No new lands were acquired in this acquisition area; therefore no master plan objectives were met.</i>

MASTER PLAN DESCRIPTION	Expanding the boundary to the north maintains a large block of continuous forest land. It also blocks state-owned forest land with county owned forest land to create a larger, continuous block of public ownership. Additionally this provides increased protection of the Eagle Creek watershed flowing into the Peshtigo River.
Accomplishments 2012	<i>No new lands were acquired in this acquisition area; therefore no master plan objectives were met.</i>

MASTER PLAN DESCRIPTION	Obtaining additional land to the west of the current boundary increases protection of the Thunder River—a major tributary of the Peshtigo River—and provides an important buffer around Governor Thompson State
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	Park. Additionally, acquisition of this area connects state and federal forest land in Oconto County.
Accomplishments 2012	<i>No new lands were acquired in this acquisition area; therefore no master plan objectives were met.</i>

MASTER PLAN DESCRIPTION	Acquiring supplemental land in the Potato Rapids area maintains a larger block of continuous forest land and establishes an easily recognizable boundary, Highway E. It also provides additional watershed protection and improved public access to the existing Potato Rapids portion of the forest.
Accomplishments 2012	<i>No new lands were acquired in this acquisition area; therefore no master plan objectives were met.</i>

Administration and Operations

MASTER PLAN DESCRIPTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New or renovated recreational facilities will be designed according to state building codes, Department design standards and codes and the Americans with Disabilities Act. • The Forest Superintendent may close and relocate campsites, renovate facilities, and relocate trail segments as deemed necessary. • The Forest Superintendent may maintain and construct storage buildings, employee housing, and/or other similar facilities to support the management of the state forest. • The Forest Superintendent may close a road to public use if it becomes degraded, causing unsafe conditions for public vehicles. • All facilities will comply with federal, state, and local health and sanitation codes; such as well testing, campground licensing and wastewater treatment. • The Forest Superintendent may close campsites or campgrounds, trails, and other facilities on the forest when necessary due to health, safety, or environmental damage concerns. • Within designated public use areas trees or other natural elements that are deemed public hazards will be removed. Safety inspections are done at least twice per year. • Wildfires, timber diseases and insect infestations shall be controlled to the degree appropriate to protect the values of each management area. • The WDNR and WPSC have individual roles and responsibilities for managing the Peshtigo River Flowages and will continue to consult regularly to maintain clear understanding of their management roles and objectives.
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<p>Accomplishments 2012</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Well water and beach water were tested per Manual Code. 2. Vault toilets were pumped as needed. 3. Designated use areas were inspected for safety and hazardous trees removed 4. WDNR attended the annual meeting with WPSC on March 22, 2012 to discuss FERC related management issues. 5. The employee housing facility was maintained and minor updates were made with a development project. 6. Appropriate treatments or practices were implemented to protect the forest from the following insects and diseases and to maintain overall forest health: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annosum Treatment was conducted on all freshly cut pine stumps: Pipeline Sale - 46 acres, Medicine Brook Road-15 acres, Bizjak Lane-7 acres • Bark Beetles: On all timber sales having red pine plantations, all cut pine must be hauled within 2 weeks during the spring and summer months. • Oak Wilt: On those sales where oak wilt is a concern, harvesting is required after July 15th, however, on most sales harvesting usually takes place after October 1st in order to regenerate scrub oak during the dormant season. • Gypsy Moths: Old Veterans Lake Campground was surveyed for egg masses in fall but less than 500 egg masses per acre were found so spraying was not recommended for next spring. 7. Wildfires: One small fire in 2012 on High Falls Road burned about ½ acre. All existing firebreaks along town and county roads were maintained by disking during late summer and early fall.
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Public Communications Plan

<p>MASTER PLAN DESCRIPTION</p>	<p>The public and other governments will be provided opportunities to have an on-going involvement in the application of this master plan.</p>
<p>Management Activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annually the Forest Superintendent will issue a report that summarizes the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For the past year, the primary management and development activities that were completed and other significant issues that were addressed. ○ For the following year, outline any proposed management and development activities and any changing management actions or approaches. • The Peshtigo River State Forest Superintendent will consult at least annually with the Mole Lake Band as well as the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission on state forest management issues related to their treaty rights. • Internal partner and external stakeholder meetings will be held annually to discuss past and future management activities.

Accomplishments 2012	<i>The annual internal planning meeting was held with Dept. staff on February 6th, 2013. The annual stakeholder meeting will be held on March 27th, 2013. The Mole Lake Band and GLIFWC were invited to attend.</i>